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From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Mon 3/19/2018 8:32:25 PM
Subject: FYI ONLY: GOP lawmakers air serious concerns about Pruitt's Pebble Mine decision

GOP lawmakers air serious concerns about Pruitt's Pebble Mine decision

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Key House Republicans told EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt earlier this month that they have "serious concerns" about his surprise announcement in January that the proposed Pebble Mine would likely pose an unacceptable risk to Alaskan resources, especially the Bristol Bay salmon fishery.

Pruitt's decision to suspend the EPA's proposed withdrawal of Obama-era restrictions was "unfortunate," wrote House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), House Science Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) and Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus. The newly posted letter is dated March 7.

"Despite this decision by the EPA, the Committees believe that the agency can continue to uphold the principles of due process and the rule of law by proceeding with a specific course of action," the lawmakers added.

The mine's Clean Water Act permit application is being processed by the Army Corps of Engineers, and EPA has said it will hold off on taking action until that process is complete. In the meantime, the lawmakers suggest, Pruitt should closely watch the Corps' process and later "make a final informed decision on the status of the proposed determination."

WHAT'S NEXT: The Army Corps permitting process is expected to take until 2019.

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 12:53 PM
To: Hough, Palmer <Hough.Palmer@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Allnutt, David <Allnutt.David@epa.gov>; Bennett, Brittany <bennett.brittany@epa.gov>; Eisenberg, Mindy <Eisenberg.Mindy@epa.gov>; Fordham, Tami <Fordham.Tami@epa.gov>; Frithsen, Jeff <Frithsen.Jeff@epa.gov>; McGrath, Patricia <mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov>; Murphy, Stacy <Murphy.Stacy@epa.gov>; Nalven, Heidi <Nalven.Heidi@epa.gov>; Palomaki, Ashley <Palomaki.Ashley@epa.gov>; Steiner-Riley, Cara <Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov>; Stern, Allyn <Stern.Allyn@epa.gov>; Szerlog, Michael <Szerlog.Michael@epa.gov>; Walker, Denise <Walker.Denise@epa.gov>; Wehling, Carrie <Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov>; Thiesing, Mary <Thiesing.Mary@epa.gov>; Peterson, Erik <Peterson.Erik@epa.gov>; Whitley, Annie <Whitley.Annie@epa.gov>; Combes, Marcia <Combes.Marcia@epa.gov>; Villa, Catherine <Villa.Catherine@epa.gov>; Herbst, John <herbst.john@epa.gov>
Subject: FYI ONLY: EPA rejects wetland permit for Michigan gold mine opposed by tribe

EPA rejects wetland permit for Michigan gold mine opposed by tribe

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2018/03/19/stories/1060076707>

March 19, 2018

U.S. EPA has rejected a wetland permit for a proposed gold, zinc and copper mine in Michigan.

EPA said in a letter earlier this month to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality that Aquila Resources Inc. had failed to meet Clean Water Act standards or sufficiently address tribal concerns about the Back Forty mine.

The Menominee Indians, located just across the border in Wisconsin, have fought against the mine for years, saying it could threaten water quality and sacred cultural artifacts (**E&E News PM**, Jan. 22).

The tribe and other mine opponents cheered EPA's action, saying it imposes significant hurdles on Aquila Resources.

"There's no one small fix the company can do," said Kathleen Heideman of the Upper Peninsula's Mining Action Group.

"The company would have to fix it in so many ways, it would become a different permit, or a different project."

Aquila Resources did not respond to requests for comment. Michigan previously approved several key permits for the mine (Brian Bienkowski, **Environmental Health News**, March 19)